



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

Tom Horne  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

August 2008

Dear Principal,

AZ LEARNS and NCLB (AYP) profiles have been posted on the Common Logon from the ADE website. In reviewing the labels for all the schools in Arizona, it is noted that your school has earned a label of “Underperforming.” In the next few weeks you’ll be able to file an appeal so be sure to look at past memos from Research and Evaluation to determine if you should file an appeal for the label. All of this data is “embargoed” at this point and should not be shared with the public until it is released by ADE.

If your school is potentially Underperforming for the first or second year, you will need to pre-register for the Fall Process workshops to be held in Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Tucson as your attendance at one of these locations will be required.

The focus of the September forums is sharing important information on how to conduct an effective needs assessment and complete an Arizona School Improvement Plan that will be a guide for your school to close the achievement gap. There will also be an opportunity to work with specialists from Title One/NCLB should you have requirements for the federal accountability system.

To register, please go to the ADE webpage and click on “Calendar of Events.” We are conducting forums in Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Tucson. The dates for each of the forums are:

Phoenix –	September 8 and 9 at the Desert Willow Conference Center
Flagstaff –	September 15 and 16 at the High Country Conference Center
Tucson –	September 22 and 23 at the Holiday Inn, Tucson Airport

You only need to attend one day of the forums; we are offering two at each location to give schools some flexibility in scheduling. It is also suggested that a small team (2-4) attend the forum. These extras would be part of your leadership team and will help you direct the work that you develop in the school improvement plan. There are also four additional forums that will be required throughout the year and there is more information in the attached flyer.

If you preregister and then have your appeal granted so that you are no longer Underperforming, you will be able to cancel your reservation and get a refund of the registration fees. If your school did not make AYP, you will be required to attend and would then be able to use Title I School Improvement Grant funds to defray the cost of attending.

We look forward to working with your school at the forums. Have a great start to your school year.

Sincerely,

John M. Black  
Director of School Improvement, AZ LEARNS  
Arizona Department of Education